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THE RED CROSS



IN CHARGE OF

JANE A. DELANO, R.N.

Chairman of National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service

THE following Proclamation concerning the American Red Cross and the relation which it bears to the Army and Navy of the United States in time of war has recently been issued by the President of the United States, and will be of interest to all nurses who form a part of the American Red Cross personnel:

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, the American National Red Cross having been incorporated by an act of Congress January 5, 1905, "To furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies in time of war, in accordance with the spirit and conditions of * * * the Treaty of Geneva of August 22, 1864;" and

WHEREAS, it is desirable definitely to state the relations that shall exist between the American National Red Cross and the military departments of the government in the event of war:

Now, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM H. TAFT, President of the United States, by virtue of the authority in me vested, do hereby declare and proclaim—

1. That the American National Red Cross is the only volunteer society now authorized by this government to render aid to its land and naval forces in time of war.

2. That any other society desiring to render similar assistance can do so only through the American National Red Cross.

3. That to comply with the requirements of Article 10 of the International Red Cross Convention of 1906 (revision of the Treaty of Geneva), that part of the American National Red Cross rendering aid to the land and naval forces will constitute a part of the sanitary services thereof.

4. That it should be desirable in time of war, or when war is immi-

ment, for the War Department or the Navy Department to make use of the services of the American National Red Cross, the Secretary of such Department is authorized to communicate with the President of the Society, specifying the character of the services required, and designating the place or places where the personnel and material will be assembled.

5. That when any member of the American National Red Cross reports for duty with the land or naval forces of the United States, pursuant to a proper call, he will thereafter be subject to military laws and regulations as provided in Article 10 of the International Red Cross Convention of 1906, and will be provided with the necessary brassard and certificate of identity.

6. That except in cases of great emergency, the personnel of the American National Red Cross will not be assigned to duty at the front, but will be confined to hospitals in the home country, at the base of operations, on hospital ships, and along lines of communication of the military and naval forces of the United States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington, this twenty-second day of August, A. D., one thousand nine hundred and eleven, and of the Independence (Seal) of the United States of America, the one hundred and thirty-sixth.

WM. H. TAFT.

By the President:

HUNTINGTON WILSON

Acting Secretary of State.

ALTHOUGH the women of America have always rendered conspicuous service to their country in time of need, and their patriotism and loyalty have never been questioned, no formal recognition of their devotion has ever been made. That there is an awakening appreciation of this fact, and a willingness to honor service and self-sacrifice for the good of one's country, regardless of sex, is evidenced by a proposition most graciously made at a banquet of the Loyal Legion in New York. I quote from *The Washington Post* of October 5, 1911.

"A movement to raise half a million dollars to build a national monument in Washington to the memory of the women of the civil war was launched in New York last night at the dinner of the New York Commandery of the Loyal Legion and met ready response here.

"A special committee to further the project was appointed at the

banquet consisting of Maj.-Gen. Frederick D. Grant, Commander of the department of the East; Gen. Thomas H. Hubbard, Gen. J. Fred. Pier-son, L. J. Langdon Ward, Capt. James J. Scrymser, Capt. Loyall Farragut, and First Lieut. Thomas Sturgis.

"The proposed memorial was the topic of a speech delivered there by James M. Beck, counsel for the commandery, in response to the toast, 'To the memory of the women of the civil war,' in which he eulogized American women for the part they have played in the history of this country.

"Mr. Beck, in explaining the project, said:

"This project is one of singular nobility and beauty. In many ways it is absolutely unique. Notwithstanding the vaunted chivalry of our race, and all the rhapsodies of poets and artists with respect to woman, it remains a fact that there are few memorials which record the heroism, the self-sacrifice, and the patriotism of woman.

"There are many memorials to the deathless valor of the boys in blue, but not less worthy of commemorative art are the equal self-sacrifice and courage of the women of America who freely gave their lives at the fever-stricken camps which followed the march of our armies.

"It is pointed out that hundreds of women gave up their lives during the civil war while serving as nurses or in other capacities.'

"Thomas S. Hopkins, judge advocate general of the G. A. R., said:

"This project is the most worthy mentioned in the United States in many years. The women who suffered and even died in the civil war for the sake of their country have never received recognition. It is time that some monument should be erected to them in remembrance of their brave deeds. Had it not been for the bravery of the women who served as nurses, the suffering would have been multiplied innumerable times.' "

SURGEON-GENERAL ARTHUR W. MAY, Royal Navy of Great Britain, recently called at the War Department and gave a most interesting account of new work undertaken by the English Red Cross, in which he is much interested. They have as yet no Nursing Service in connection with the English Red Cross but have undertaken the organization and instruction of Volunteer Aid Detachments. These detachments are made up of untrained men and women, and their instruction includes First Aid, Home Nursing, and Diet for the Sick. The Surgeon-General believes that this dissemination of the fundamental principles of nursing among the people will not only tend to improve the hygiene of the home, but lead to more intelligent co-operation with the Red Cross.

MAY we, through the JOURNAL, remind State Nurses' Associations which are organized for Red Cross work, members of Committees, and enrolled nurses, of the annual meeting of the American Red Cross to be held in Washington on December 5, 1911? Such State Nurses' Associations are entitled to send a delegate, and all members of Committees and enrolled nurses are privileged to attend. There will be a meeting of the National Committee, probably on December 4, at which time its members will be glad to consider any difficulties which may have arisen, or any suggestions which state or local committees may care to submit.

Members of committees have returned from their vacations, and are generally reporting as ready to undertake the winter's work. Our enrollment of Red Cross nurses now numbers over 2250. State and local committees are reminded of semi-annual reports, and are requested to send to the chairman of the National Committee by the first of each month items of interest for the Red Cross Department of the JOURNAL.

THE National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis states: "It is very important that every one bear in mind that the Post Office Department will not carry any letters bearing these seals or any other non-postage stamps upon the face of the letter. Red Cross Seals may and should be placed on the back of letters and packages.

"Agents for the sale of Red Cross Seals have now been appointed in every large state of the United States. More territory will be covered this year, and more agents will sell seals than ever before. We need and want a million dollars from the sale of Red Cross Seals in 1911."